

Grammar Handout 001 Key  
Adjectives and Adverbs

001  
Key

A. An **adjective**, a word that describes a noun or pronoun, answers the following questions:

**WHICH?** ----- –Those books belong to me.

Locate noun: books  
Question: which books?  
Answer: those books  
Adjective: those

**HOW MANY?** ----- –She failed three tests.

Locate noun: tests  
Question: how many tests?  
Answer: three tests  
Adjective: three

**WHAT KIND?** ----- –The beautiful, new store just opened.

Locate noun: store  
Question: what kind of store?  
Answer: beautiful store  
new store  
Adjectives: beautiful, new

Many adjectives are formed by adding the endings –able, –ful, –ish, –less, or –y to nouns and verbs.

agree ----- –agreeable  
help ----- –helpful  
fool ----- –foolish  
care ----- –careless  
noise ----- –noisy

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\* The articles (**a, an, the**) and the possessive pronouns (**my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose**) are also adjectives. However, this handout does not deal with these types of adjectives. Therefore, it is not necessary to identify them in the exercises.

Adjectives usually precede the noun or pronoun they modify. Sometimes, however, they appear after a linking verb (be, being, been, is, are, was, were, am) and describe the word on the other side.

**Examples:** Mary is pretty. (Pretty is describing Mary)  
The girl is lovely. (Lovely is describing the girl.)  
Henry was mad. (Mad is describing Henry.)

**Finding Adjectives:** Adjectives are usually close to the words that they modify. Therefore, first locate the nouns or pronouns in the sentences and ask one of the adjective questions. In addition, if you think a word is an adjective, say the word and the noun you think it modifies. If it sounds right, you've probably found an adjective. Look at the following list. Which two words don't sound right together?

happy person  
wonderful guy  
thin person  
very girl  
running water

Obviously, very girl makes no sense, so very is not an adjective. Therefore, when you're looking for adjectives, rely on what sounds right.

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**Directions:** For each of the following sentences, underline all the adjectives and draw an arrow from the adjective to the noun that it modifies.

**Examples:** An unhappy man approached the officer.

The dog is ill.

A sweet child gave his loving mom a kiss.

The little boy is sick.

The sad, tired man walked away slowly.

1. Some adoring fans waited for six hours just to see the popular singer.
2. The noise in the house was loud.
3. The slow jogger finished the long, grueling race.
4. Randy said that Joey was angry.
5. These attractive watches sold very quickly.
6. The torn, dirty boxes were thrown in the garbage.
7. The girl who won the contest is pretty.
8. Seven elderly people moved from the old neighborhood.
9. His jealous sister never had a kind word to say about anybody.
10. Her messy handwriting caused her to fail the writing course.
11. The dark cemetery frightened the two nervous children.

12. My one comfortable chair is covered in a colorful Spanish fabric.
13. Many angry letters were written to the company by disappointed customers.
14. The perplexed clerk looked at me with a questioning expression.
15. My helpful teenager washed the filthy car yesterday.
16. The shy, quiet boy sat in the darkened corner of the noisy room.
17. I believe that he was happy and excited about the news.
18. The relaxed atmosphere in the quiet library calmed my jittery nerves.
19. Several recent videos were stolen by the brash, young man.
20. The guilty man confessed to the sympathetic judge.
21. We saw an excellent show at the new theater on Thursday.
22. The successful play opened on Broadway to an enthusiastic crowd.
23. I am very sad today.
24. Both narrow bands on the watches resemble a trendy style.
25. These attractive girls are entering the beauty contest.

B. An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

I. Adverbs that describe verbs answer the following questions:

**WHEN?** ----- They will return home tomorrow.

Locate verb:	will return
Question:	will return <u>when</u> ?
Answer:	will return <u>tomorrow</u>
Adverb:	<u>tomorrow</u>

**WHERE?** ----- The club meets here.

Locate verb:	meets
Question:	meets <u>where</u> ?
Answer:	meets <u>here</u>
Adverb:	<u>here</u>

**TO WHAT EXTENT?** ----- The boy always forgets.

Locate verb:	forgets
Question:	forgets <u>to what extent or degree</u> ?
Answer:	<u>always</u> forgets
Adverb:	<u>always</u>

**\*\* HOW?** ----- Martha answered the question easily.

Locate verb: answered  
Question: answered how?  
Answer: answered easily  
Adverb: easily

II. ADVERBS that describe adjectives and adverbs answer the following question:

**\*\*HOW?** ----- A delightfully charming child won.

Locate adjective: charming  
Question: how charming?  
Answer: delightfully charming  
Adverb: delightfully

**HOW?** ----- Selma spoke too quickly.

Locate adverb: quickly  
Question: how quickly?  
Answer: too quickly  
Adverb: too

**\*\* ADVERBS** from these two areas make up the largest group. They answer the question **HOW**, and most of these adverbs **end in ly**.

**Finding Adverbs:** Adverbs are more difficult to spot because, unlike adjectives, which usually precede or are close to the nouns they modify, adverbs can appear anywhere in the sentences. However, most ly words are adverbs. Therefore, look for them in the sentences and see if they answer one of the **adverb questions**, especially the **HOW** question.

The following exercises test **only adverbs that modify verbs or adjectives**. Adverbs modifying other adverbs will **not** be addressed in this booklet.

**Directions:** For each of the following sentences, **underline all the adverbs once** and **draw an arrow from the adverb to the verb or adjective that it modifies**. If a **verb** is being modified, **underline it twice**. If an **adjective** is being modified, **circle it**.

**Examples:**

I was furious about the absolutely outrageous price of the car.  
(Ask yourself – **how** outrageous?)

He quickly stopped what he was doing.  
(Ask yourself – **how** did he stop?)

She did behave politely at the party.  
(Ask yourself – **how** did she behave?)

\*\*I was secretly hoping he'd call.  
(Ask yourself – **how** was she hoping?)

\*\*Secretly is splitting the verb phrase was hoping.

1. We were secretly meeting every afternoon to plan the party.
2. The bride smiled nervously.
3. The beautifully decorated hotel won an award.
4. They tried desperately to save the man.
5. I quickly left the party when I saw him.
6. Their shockingly bad behavior annoyed us.
7. She reacted negatively to the suggestion about her job.
8. Some lawyers are completely obsessed with status and money.
9. It was raining heavily last night.
10. One soldier had a seriously injured back and was rushed to a hospital.
11. They performed the duet magnificently.
12. She received an A for a perfectly written essay.
13. Martha absolutely refused to change her mind.
14. Her carefully chosen wardrobe cost her dad a thousand dollars.
15. She spoke softly and slowly.
16. They raised their children strictly.
17. The children acted foolishly at the party.
18. Her badly stained dress was ruined.
19. It was an excellently prepared speech.
20. Her son is uncommonly bright.

21. Her constantly chattering child is driving me crazy!
22. His meticulously pressed pants always look neat.
23. My parents angrily voiced their opinion about my decision.
24. She generously handed me a hundred dollars for a new dress.
25. I was highly praised for my performance.

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## Review of Adjectives and Adverbs

**Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns** and usually precede the words that they modify. Sometimes, however, adjectives appear after linking verbs and modify the subjects on the other side.

**Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.** (Remember, you are not being tested on adverbs that modify other adverbs.) Most adverbs end in **ly** and answer the **HOW** question.

**HINTS:** These suggestions should work most of the time:

- (1) Choose an adjective if the word after the blank is a noun.

**Example:** Her (adjective) child (noun) is crying.  
a. sweet (adjective)                      b. sweetly

- (2) Choose an adjective if a linking verb (be, being, been, is, are, was, were, am) comes before the blank and you want a word to describe the subject (a noun or pronoun).

**Example:** Mary is (linking verb) (adjective).  
a. happy (adjective)                      b. happily

- (3) Choose an adverb if the word on either side of the blank is an action verb.

**Examples:** John (adverb) left (verb) the room.  
a. quick                                      b. quickly (adverb)

Ed drove (verb) (adverb) during the storm.

a. slow                                      b. slowly (adverb)

Mary did (helping verb) (adverb) call (verb) me.

a. secret                                      b. secretly (adverb)

- (4) Choose an adverb if the word after the blank is an adjective.

**Example:** Ed's (adverb) high (adjective) grades pleased his mom.  
a. surprising                              b. surprisingly (adverb)

**Directions:** Read each sentence carefully and choose either an adjective or adverb to fill in the blanks. Then write the letter of your choice next to its corresponding number.

1. The boy b moved away from the fire.  
a. quick                      b. quickly
2. The a boy moved away from the fire.  
a. quick                      b. quickly
3. She was a.  
a. happy                      b. happily
4. Beth is a a girl.  
a. nice                      b. nicely
5. He gave a b easy test.  
a. surprising                      b. surprisingly
6. Her a husband gave her a bouquet of roses.  
a. loving                      b. lovingly
7. The b confused girl took the wrong highway.  
a. thorough                      b. thoroughly
8. She moves b.  
a. athletic                      b. athletically
9. She is a.  
a. athletic                      b. athletically
10. Agatha Christie is a a writer.  
a. thrilling                      b. thrillingly
11. Her b expensive coat is beautiful.  
a. ridiculous                      b. ridiculously
12. Eric behaves b when he's at a party.  
a. rude                      b. rudely
13. Bob ran b through the woods.  
a. swift                      b. swiftly
14. My b ill dog had to have an operation.  
a. pathetic                      b. pathetically

15. Ted is a for his age.  
a. intelligent                      b. intelligently
16. That b expensive vase was cracked.  
a. incredible                      b. incredibly
17. I tried b to reach you all day yesterday.  
a. desperate                      b. desperately
18. Her a daughter won the contest.  
a. charming                      b. charmingly
19. She b completed all her work.  
a. successful                      b. successfully
20. Jack's b upset wife sat down and cried.  
a. understanding                      b. understandably
21. She cried b over the death of her pet.  
a. bitter                      b. bitterly
22. Leonard's b stylish suits must be expensive.  
a. impressive                      b. impressively
23. The girls in the last row are a .  
a. noisy                      b. noisily
24. They b decided to leave.  
a. immediate                      b. immediately
25. That b patient teacher goes over the homework each day.  
a. wonderful                      b. wonderfully